

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1245

By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Mack Brown upon his extraordinary success as Head Football Coach at the University of Texas.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those coaches who have performed their duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and, through their magnificent exploits, have achieved an extraordinary level of success; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable coach is Mack Brown, Head Football Coach of the University of Texas Football Team; and

WHEREAS, a renowned player in his own right, Mack Brown was an outstanding football player in his youth; he was a key player on the Putnam County High School football team that won the Tennessee Football State Title in 1967; and

WHEREAS, Mack Brown has been a football coach at nine Division I-A programs and head football coach at four Division I-A programs, including Appalachian State University, Tulane University, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and the University of Texas; and

WHEREAS, a now legendary leader, Mack Brown began his collegiate head coaching career at Appalachian State University, where he achieved a 6-5 record during the 1983 season, Appalachian State's first winning season in many years; and

WHEREAS, arriving as Head Coach at Tulane in 1982, Mack Brown turned the Tulane football program around, leading them to a 6-6 record and just their fifth bowl game in more than forty years during the 1987 season; and

WHEREAS, as coach of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill football team, Mack Brown amassed sixty victories and led the Tar Heels to a 4th Place finish in 1997; and

WHEREAS, hired by the University of Texas on December 4, 1997, Mack Brown has established himself as one of the premier college football coaches in the country; in 2005, he led the Longhorns to a perfect 13-0 season and claimed the 2005 NCAA National Football Championship; and

WHEREAS, for his extraordinary effort and success, Mack Brown was tabbed the 2005 Bear Bryant National Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, under his tutelage, the University of Texas football team has amassed a spectacular record of 83 wins and 19 losses during the past eight seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Brown has achieved ten consecutive seasons with nine or more wins, five consecutive seasons with ten or more wins, sixteen winning seasons in a row, ten straight National Top 25 finishes, and fourteen consecutive bowl berths; and

WHEREAS, as the Longhorns Head Coach, Mack Brown has coached one Heisman Trophy winner, one Heisman Trophy runner-up, a Maxwell Award winner, two Doak Walker Award winners, a Butkus Award winner, a Nagurski Award winner, a Thorpe Award winner, thirty All-Americans, forty-six First Team All-Big 12 players, three Big 12 Offensive Players of the Year, three Big 12 Defensive Players of the Year, and nine Big 12 Freshman of the Year honorees; and

WHEREAS, over the past nine years, Mack Brown has been the winningest coach in NCAA football; since 1990, he has the second best record and third best winning percentage of NCAA football coaches with 150 wins against only 45 losses and one tie, a .769 winning percentage; and

WHEREAS, raw statistics, however impressive they may be, cannot come close to measuring his value as a coach; Mack Brown is an exceptional motivator and teaches the sport as few men can; and

WHEREAS, adored and admired by his many great players, Mack Brown is not only an exemplary coach, but also a tremendous mentor and friend to his players, a testament to his devoted character and commitment to this Nation's youth; and

WHEREAS, in his years as Head Football Coach at the University of Texas, Mack Brown has elevated the team to national prominence, and he has done it with a dignity and class that reflect the reputation he built as both an athlete and as a coach; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, he is committed to maintaining the highest ideals of family and community values and is most grateful for the support and love he shares with his family; and

WHEREAS, Mack Brown has continued his family's legacy of success in football; he has two brothers, Mel, an insurance businessman, and Watson, current head football coach at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and former head football coach at Austin Peay State University, Vanderbilt University, and Rice University; Watson was inducted into the State of Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Mack Brown's father, the late Melvin Brown, was a World War II veteran, and his mother, Katherine, was an accomplished golfer and outstanding athlete in high school and college; and

WHEREAS, his grandfather, the late Eddie "Jelly" Watson, helped organize football at Cookeville High School in 1928, won 106 games as the Cookeville High School head football coach, became superintendent of Putnam County Schools in 1958, was inducted into the Tennessee Tech Sports Hall of Fame, and was honored by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1989; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career, Mack Brown has exemplified the unquestionable character and stalwart determination that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor Head Coach Mack Brown upon his extraordinary success at the University of Texas, congratulate him upon winning the 2005 NCAA Division I-A National Football Title and the 2005 Bear Bryant National Coach of the Year, and wish him every success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.